

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 have been examined in the present application. Claims 1-2 and 6-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) under Devanney et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,243,779). Claims 3-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) over Devanney in view of Takasugi (U.S. Patent No. 5,287,327). Claims 1 and 8 have been amended hereby. Claims 7 and 11 have been canceled hereby. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and below remarks.

Independent claim 1 has been rejected over Devanney. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of cancelled dependent claim 7. Independent claim 1 as amended requires that its comparison means and inverting means operate on a group of data bus lines. As described in the present specification, this grouping feature is particularly useful when a system employs a large bus consisting of a large number of lines. This claimed feature of the present invention is neither taught nor suggested by either Devanney, Takasugi or the combination thereof.

In rejecting the limitations of dependent claims 7 and 11, the Office Action points to Figures 1 and 2 of Devanney as classifying the internal bus lines into a plurality of groups. Specifically, the Office Action states that “210 and 230 arranged for buses 216, 224, INVERT, 424-bits from 110.” Applicant respectfully disagrees that Devanney teaches anything with respect to the grouping limitations of amended claims 1 and 8. In the cited portion of Devanney, Figs. 1 and 2, the comparison circuit 210 compares all of the next data on the internal bus lines to all of the data presently on the external bus lines. There is no grouping whatsoever of these bus lines. The comparison is performed on the bus as a whole without any grouping of the bus lines whatsoever. Element 230 in Fig. 2 and Devanney is simply a tally circuit for determining on how many of the bus lines there is a

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 11A-11E, which replace the original sheet 8 comprising Figs. 10 and 11A-11E.

Attachment: Replacement sheet 8.

Annotated sheets showing changes.

mismatch. Again, there is no grouping with respect to this tally circuit 230. Devanney only teaches treating the internal and external lines as whole entities, and does not perform any grouping as is expressly recited in independent claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 1 on the basis of Devanney is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6 are dependent on and include all of the limitations of independent claim 1. Therefore, all of the above arguments regarding currently amended independent claim 1 apply equally to dependent claims 2-6 and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims is respectfully requested. It is noted that in the rejection of dependent claims 3-5, the Office Action has added the teachings of Takasugi for its amplifier disclosure. Takasugi does not cure the deficiencies of Devanney as described above with respect to the grouping limitations of claim 1. Therefore, even if Devanney and Takasugi are combined the resultant combination does not read on any of claims 1-6.

Independent claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the grouping limitations of cancelled dependent claim 11. Independent claim 8 explicitly requires “arranging each of the internal and external bus lines into a plurality of corresponding groups” and “comparing data on each group of the internal bus lines to data on corresponding groups of external bus lines.” Applicant respectfully submits that this feature of the present invention is neither taught nor suggested by Devanney, Takasugi or the combination thereof as described above with respect to independent claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 8 is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 9-10 are dependent on and include all of the limitations of independent claim 8. Therefore, all of the above arguments regarding amended independent claim 8 apply equally to dependent claims 9-10 and withdrawal of the rejections of these dependent claims is respectfully requested.

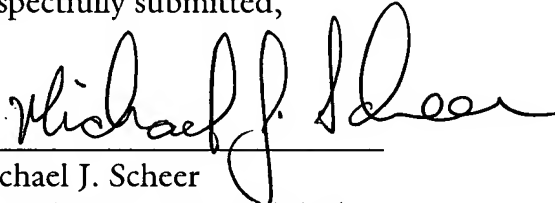
Application No.: 10/644,013

Docket No.: Y0647.0145/0US0

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application are believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments

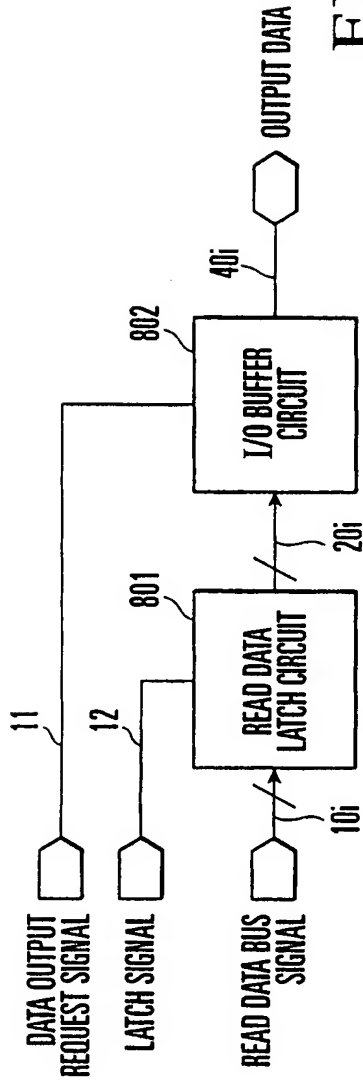
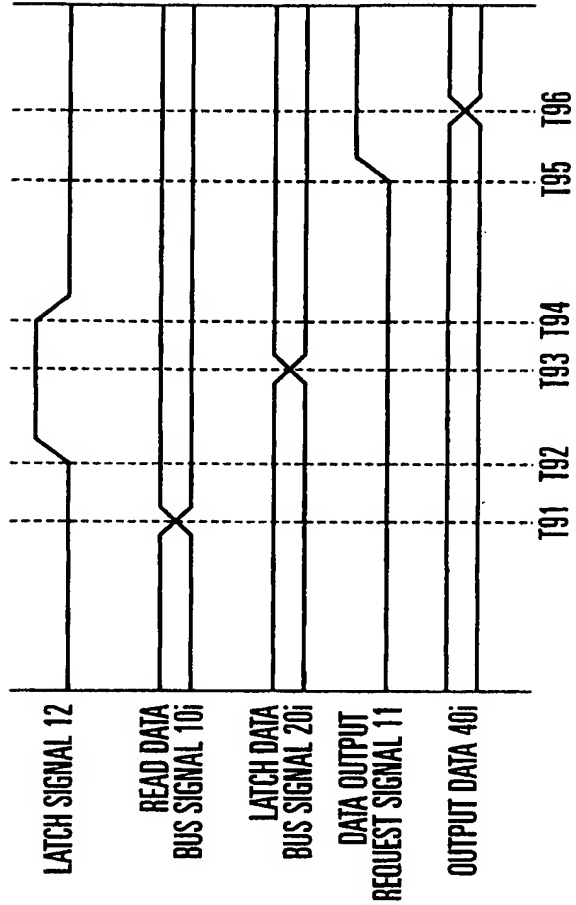


FIG. 10
PRIOR ART



PRIOR ART FIG. 11A

PRIOR ART FIG. 11B

PRIOR ART FIG. 11C

PRIOR ART FIG. 11D

PRIOR ART FIG. 11E